

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT IT

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS# LEFT REMAINS DOMINANT FORCE
IN SMALL TURNOUT

1. SIX OF THE SEVEN UNIVERSITIES IN THE CONSULAR DISTRICT (BOLOGNA, FERRARA, FLORENCE, MODENA, PARMA AND PISA) HELD STUDENT ELECTIONS FEBRUARY 12-13 TO ELECT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO VARIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACULTY COUNCILS. AT THE SEVENTH UNIVERSITY, SIENA, ELECTIONS WERE "POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH 23 AT THE REQUEST OF THE STUDENTS.

2. STUDENT TURNOUT WAS IN THE RANGE OF 20 PERCENT (PARMA) TO 26 PERCENT (BOLOGNA). IN MOST UNIVERSITIES, FOUR OF FIVE LISTS WERE PRESENTED WITH THE MARXIST (PCI, PSI, PDUP AND IN SOME CASES EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS) FACING A CATHOLIC GROUP, A LAIC ALTERNATIVE (PRI, PSDI), THE RIGHT AND IN SOME CASES A CONSERVATIVE CATHOLIC/LIBERAL TICKET.

3. AS IN THE FIRST STUDENT ELECTIONS IN 1975, THE LEFT EMERGED AS THE DOMINANT GROUP WITH PERCENTAGES RANGING FROM 69.5 PERCENT IN PISA TO 49 PERCENT IN PARMA. THE CATHOLIC LIST WITH 18 PERCENT TO 22 PERCENT OF THE VOTE SUPPLANTED THE LAIC ALTERNATIVE AS THE SECOND FORCE. DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS SAW THE MARXISTS PICK UP THE MAJORITY WITH THE CATHOLIC REPRESENTED BY ONE (SOMETIMES TWO). THE REMAINING TICKETS WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS DID NOT SUCCEED IN PLACING REPRESENTATIVES ON ANY

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OF THE COUNCILS.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT FOCUSED ON THE LOW INTEREST DEMONSTRATED BY THE STUDENTS AND THE SUCCESS OF THE REJUVENATED CATHOLIC TICE EEEEE TICKET, IN MANY CASES HELPED BY THE EFFORTS OF COMMUNIONE E LIBERAZIONE.

5. COMMENT: LOW TURNOUT IS PARTIALLY EXPLAINED BY THE FACT THAT MANY STUDENTS AFTER ENROLLING DO NOT ATTEND LECTURES REGULARLY AND PURSUE BUSINESS CAREERS ONLY APPEARING FOR THE NECESSARY EXAMINATIONS. ALSO THERE IS A CERTAIN DISILLUSIONMENT WITH THE EFFECTIVENESS OF UNIVERSITIES ADMINISTRATION APPARATUS WHICH MIGHT PARTIALLY EXPLAIN FALL IN PARTICIPATION OF 4 PERCENT IN FLORENCE AND 3 PERCENT IN EMILIA ROMAGNA AS A WHOLE. GORDON

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